

COURSE CHALLENGE

Background

The Division recognizes some students are able to demonstrate a high level of achievement of the learning outcomes of a particular course without spending the required hours enrolled in the course. The intention is to allow students to challenge a course and to demonstrate the course requirements through a rigorous and comprehensive challenge process, in order to move on to further learning. To accommodate this, the Ministry of Education has developed a process for challenging courses for credit. Using this process, a maximum of two course challenge credits may be attained at the 10 or 20 level.

Procedures

1. The school will administer the Course Challenge process within provincial guidelines and Division administrative procedures.
2. Provincially-developed courses may be challenged at the 10 or 20 level.
3. A teacher who has previously taught the course at least twice (in different semesters/blocks, not concurrently) is qualified to administer the course challenge process.
4. The course challenge process should include a variety of assessment techniques that measure the level of student attainment of course objectives.
5. The student must attain a minimum of 80% through the course challenge process in order to be granted credit. The percentage mark attained will be recorded on the student's transcript.
6. Students who are not successful in the course challenge process shall not be allowed to challenge the same course a second time. In order to receive credit for the course, these students will be required to register in and successfully complete that course.
7. Assessment strategies for a challenge process shall be developed by the course instructor based upon course requirements and upon current classroom assessment techniques. Course outcomes will be listed with the assessment strategies and shall be available to attach to the Administrative Procedure Form 218-1 Intent to Challenge Course form.
8. Schools shall communicate to parents and students the availability, procedures, outcomes and assessment strategies for course challenges.

9. To challenge a course, the student must make a formal request to the principal and then submit the completed Administrative Procedure Form 218-1 Intent to Challenge Course to the school.
10. Students shall take the responsibility for providing evidence of readiness to challenge a course (i.e. a high mark in a prerequisite course, selections from a portfolio or other collection, recommendation from a previous teacher, documentation of work or other experience, etc.).
11. The decision to proceed with a course challenge process, by evaluating the Administrative Procedure Form 218-1 Intent to Challenge Course form, will be determined at the local level by a team of at least two individuals (to include the principal and the teacher who will administer the challenge process). Arrival at this decision shall include discussion of the student's chance of successfully meeting the exemplary level in the course challenge and, subsequently, the student's capacity to successfully complete the course at the next level.
12. If the "Intent to Challenge" is refused, the student is required to register in and successfully complete that course in order to receive credit for the course.
13. Students will be notified by the school principal of the approval or refusal of their "Intent to Challenge" within two weeks. Refusals will be documented according to criteria. Approvals will state a date for completion of the challenge process.
14. Students who successfully complete the challenge process will be granted one credit for the course. To access this credit, the following documents should be submitted to the Ministry of Education:
 - 14.1. School/school division course challenge procedure
 - 14.2. Administrative Procedure 218-1 Intent to Challenge Course form; and
 - 14.3. Secondary Level Mark Correction form.
15. Further information and frequently asked questions can be viewed by accessing the Ministry of Education's Course Challenge Process: Policy and Procedures (2017).

References: Sections 85, 87, 109, 168, 169, 170, 175, 231 Education Act
 Ministry of Education Registrar's Handbook
 Ministry of Education Course Challenge Process Policy and Procedures 2017

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